

March 8, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you regarding SB422 submitted by Sen. Bye in response to the proposed Niagra water bottling scheme. There will be a hearing regarding this issue on Friday, March 11 at 11:00. As elected representatives your duty is to protect the Common Good which thus requires you to act to protect "the commons". Water is like the air we breathe in that it is a common wealth without which we cannot live. In his recent encyclical *Laudato Si* Pope Francis reminds us that the common good is *"the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment. Underlying the principle of the common good is respect for the human person as such, endowed with basic and inalienable rights ordered to his or her integral development."*

When any portion of the commons are privatized for the sake of profit the integrity of the very notion of the commons is attacked. We have seen the effects of previous generations disregard for the commons when rivers in America caught fire because they were used as dumping grounds by corporations seeking to maximize profits at the expense of the common good of the people. Similarly our air was once more grossly polluted but because of Congressional efforts to protect these commons through the Clean Air and Clean Water acts it is now possible to swim in the Charles River in Boston and we don't experience the toxic "fog" of Beijing. When profit is attached to a common good like water it is inevitable that in time the poor of our society will lose access to it. Access to clean water is a basic human right that ought to be vigorously protected from all threats be they environmental or market.

The proposed water bottling scheme is also environmental folly. The Romans proved 2400 years ago that gravity is an extremely efficient method of transporting water. When water is bottled into disposable petroleum based containers and transported by diesel burning trucks we are needlessly pumping hydrocarbons into the atmosphere... which thus threaten the commons of the air. Why? For profit? There are plenty of opportunities for profit seeking ventures to make a buck without the hidden public subsidy of raiding the commons. It is my hope that you cherish the responsibility bestowed upon you by your election to serve the common good by protecting the common wealth of the people of Connecticut. Please support Sen. Bye's Water Bill SB 422.

Respectfully,

Christopher J. Doucot

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